

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (RABIN, YITZHAK), IS
SUBJECT: RABIN'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER
RABIN'S STATEMENT AT BEN-GURION AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS
DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S. ON MARCH 6.

BEGIN TEXT:

2. I AM LEAVING FOR THE UNITED STATES THIS MORNING, HAVING ACCEPTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION, IN ORDER TO HOLD FIRST CONTACT -- AT THE LEVEL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL -- ON THE FUTURE OF THE POLITICAL PROCESSES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, TO ENSURE THE (FURTHER) CRYSTALLIZATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, MAINLY ON THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES, TO ENSURE ISRAEL'S SECURITY TO THE DEGREE THAT IT DEPENDS ON ARMS SUPPLIES FROM THE U.S. -- THOUGH THERE ARE NO ESPECIALLY BURNING ISSUES IN THAT SPHERE -- (TO ENSURE) CONTINUED FINANCIAL AID FROM THE U.S. TO ISRAEL, SO THAT WE CAN BEAR THE DEFENSE BURDEN AND CONTINUE DEVELOPING THE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND BETTERING SOCIAL SERVICES. IN THIS
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SPHERE, TOO, THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS, AS WE ARE PROMISED -- AT LEAST ON THE PART OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION -- CONTINUATION OF FINANCIAL AID, IN THE SCOPE WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE, UNTIL THE END OF 1978. HENCE, THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS WILL BE ON WHAT I HOPE WILL BE AN IN-DEPTH ELUCIDATION OF ISRAEL'S STRIVINGS AND AIMS IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE.

3. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO EXPLAIN TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION -- ALREADY AT THE INCIPIENT STAGE OF THE FORMATION OF ITS POLITICAL THINKING -- THAT ISRAEL'S CENTRAL GOAL WAS AND IS THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE: TRUE PEACE, PEACE THAT WILL PROVIDE SECURITY TO ISRAEL AND THE ENTIRE REGION. IT IS ON THIS THAT I WISH TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HIS AIDES: IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS (GOAL), AND TO SEE WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE, WHAT STEPS (NEED TO BE TAKEN), AND WHAT HAS TO BE DONE IN THE MEANTIME TO GUARANTEE ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND STRENGTH -- FOR THESE CONSTITUTE THE CONDITION NOT ONLY FOR OUR SURVIVAL BUT ALSO FOR PROMOTING THE ATTAINMENT OF PEACE IN THE REGION.

4. OF COURSE, WITHIN THE FRAME WORK OF THE TALKS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION FACTORS, DIVERSE ISSUES WILL ARISE IN THE COMPREHENSIVE BILATERAL SPHERE, ISSUES MORE SPECIFIC THAN THOSE MENTIONED OF LATE IN THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA, AND SOME NOT MENTIONED AT ALL. I SHALL RAISE THE ISSUE OF ENABLING IMMIGRATION FOR SOVIET JEWRY, AS WELL AS CONTINUATION OF DEALING WITH RELIEVING THE PRESSURE ON SYRIAN JEWRY. ISRAELI EXPRESSION AND ACTION IN CONCERN FOR JEWS WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR BEING JEWS, IS DEEMED BY ME ONE OF THE MAJOR FUNCTIONS OF AN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, AND OF A PRIME MINISTER SETTING OUT ON A MISSION ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

5. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON THE "KFIR," THE PRIME
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MINISTER STATED: ABOUT SEVEN YEARS AGO, ISRAEL REQUESTED AMERICAN TECHNICAL AID ON TRANSPLATING THE "PHANTOM" ENGINE IN THE BODY OF THE "MIRAGE." WE RECEIVED POLITICAL APPROVAL, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE PART OF THE AMERICAN FIRM CONCERNED. ALMOST EXACTLY FOUR YEARS AGO, DURING MRS. GOLDA MEIR'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AS ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER -- I WAS ISRAEL AMBASSADOR IN THE U.S. --- TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT HAD REACHED THE STAGE ALLOWING FOR A CONCRETE REQUEST. AT THE TIME, A PROGRAMME WAS APPROVED BY PRESIDENT NIXON PROVIDING FOR THE DELIVERY TO ISRAEL OF BOTH "OVERALL SPECIFICATIONS" AND KNOW-HOW THAT COULD LEAD TO PRODUCTION OF THE "KFIR.5 THE ISRAELI ARGUMENT IN ALL STAGES WAS THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY, FOR THE PROVISION OF PLANES TO THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE. IN THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY US VOLUNTARILY, WE UNDERTOOK NOT TO SELL, NOT TO TRANSMIT KNOW-HOW RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. WITHOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S APPROVAL. SINCE THEN, CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED. THERE IS A NATURAL TENDENCY AND DESIRE TO EXPAND THE INFRA-

STRUCTURE OF ISRAEL'S DEFENSE INDUSTRY. TO THIS END, A BASIC REVIEW WITH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IS NECESSARY, SINCE TO DATE THE GROUNDS FOR ARMS REQUESTS FROM THE U.S., FOR KNOW-HOW FOR THE PRODUCTION OF WEAPONS IN ISRAEL, WAS BASED AND FOCUSED BY ALL THE REPRESENTATIVES ON ISRAEL'S DIRECT SECURITY NEEDS. BUT THERE IS NO REASON TO HINDER OUR TAKING STEPS TO EXPLOIT LOCAL KNOW-HOW AND ACHIEVEMENTS -- INCLUDING SUCH AS WERE COMBINED WITH KNOW-HOW WE RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. -- FOR EXPORT PURPOSES AS WELL. I THEREFORE VIEW THIS POINT AS ONE OF GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WHICH IS NOT LINKED TO ANY SPECIFIC ITEM.

6. WITH REFERENCE TO THE SALE OF THE KFIR TO ECUADOR: HANDLING OF THE MATTER HAD BEEN ENTRUSTED TO THE ISRAEL EMBASSY IN THE U.S. AT THE END OF NOVEMBER. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE EMBASSY MADE A SERIOUS EFFORT. IN DECEMBER.

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BER, THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE VISITED THE U.S., MET WITH THE U.S. SECRETARIES OF STATE AND OF DEFENSE, AND MADE A SUPREME EFFORT TO RECEIVE AMERICAN APPROVAL. MUCH TO OUR REGRET, WE DID NOT RECEIVE THE APPROVAL DURING THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION'S TENURE -- AND I AM DEPARTING FOR THE U.S. NOT BEFORE AN AMERICAN DECISION ON THE SUBJECT WAS TAKEN, BUT AFTER THE DECISION HAD BEEN PASSED, DESPITE MOBILIZATION OF ALL EFFORTS, ALL OUR POWERS OF PERSUASION. I SHALL OF COURSE DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT, (BUT) I DO NOT WANT TO CREATE A HIGH LEVEL OF EXPECTATIONS -- HAVING DESCRIBED THE SITUATION. AT THE SAME TIME, IF THE ISSUE IS ONE OF EXPORT, I BELIEVE, WITHOUT DETAILING, THAT THERE IS AT LEAST ONE OTHER ALTERNATIVE -- THOUGH THIS IS NOT THE PLACE TO SPECIFY IT -- THAT WOULD ALSO MAKE THE DEAL POSSIBLE. THIS REFERS ALSO TO CONTINUATION TO EXPORT, AND I BELIEVE THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND FOR THAT AS WELL.

END TEXT.

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TAGS: OVIP, IS, (RABIN, YITZHAK)
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